

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute the attached two (2) sheets of replacement drawings for the drawings originally filed.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-14 stand allowed in the outstanding Official Action and these claims remain in this application.

The Examiner's acknowledgment of Applicants' claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document is very much appreciated. Additionally, the Examiner's consideration of the prior art submitted with Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement is appreciated.

The drawings stand objected to as being informal. Applicants have submitted herewith formal drawings corresponding to the originally submitted informal drawings, thereby obviating any further objection to the drawings.

In section 2 on page 2 of the Official Action, the Examiner objects to the lack of headings contained in this national stage PCT application. It is also appreciated that the Examiner has brought the Abstract, the arrangement of the specification to the applicant's attention. It is noted that the objection to the arrangement and drawings appear to be an indication that the originally filed specification and drawings (transmitted from WIPO) do not meet the formality requirements of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The Patent Office is reminded that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office must comply with all articles of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) including Article 27. It has been held that:

“if the rule and interpretation of the PTO conflicts with the PCT, it runs afoul of Article 27 of the PCT which provides in part:

- (1) No national law shall require compliance with requirements relating to the form or contents of the international application different from or additional to those which are provided for in this Treaty and the Regulations.” Caterpillar Tractor v. Commissioner, 231 USPQ 590, 591 (EDVA 1986).

The Patent Office has referenced this decision in the Official Gazette dated September 9, 1986 (1070 TMOG 5).

As a consequence, the Patent Office (including the Chief Draftsman's Office) may not require specification format changes and/or drawing corrections (including changes in paper size, margins, etc.) as long as the originally submitted documents comply with the PCT requirements. Inasmuch as this specification and these drawings were forwarded for WIPO, by definition, they meet the PCT requirements (they are not forwarded until they meet PCT requirements.). Therefore, the objection to the specification and the drawings is respectfully traversed and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Notwithstanding the above, applicant has added headings and subheadings to the specification and included formal drawings as noted above.

Applicants confirm the Examiner's Amendment which was authorized on September 28, 2005 with respect to the language of claim 14, line 1.

The Examiner's indication that claims 1-14 are allowed is very much appreciated.

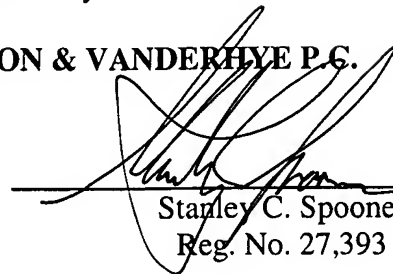
Having responded to all objections set out in the outstanding Official Action, Applicants submit claims 1-14 remain allowable and the application fully supports these allowable claims. In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of the application, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

WOOD et al
Appl. No. 10/518,896
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Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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